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**INFORMATION REPORT**

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1. Q. How many officers at Army level carry the designation "Deputy Commander"?
  - A. The following officers have the status of deputy commanders at all echelons:
    - (a) The Deputy Commander
    - (b) The Deputy Commander for Political Affairs
    - (c) The Chief of Staff
    - (d) The Deputy Commander of Armored Forces
    - (e) The Chief of Rear Services
    - (f) The Commander of Artillery

The correct designation is "Deputy Commander" for (a) above and not Deputy Commander for Tactical Matters. His duties are tactical in nature. The Commander of Artillery is so listed and not referred to as Deputy Commander for Artillery.

2. Q. What is the function of the deputy (zamestitel) to the commander?
  - A. He represents the commander at important conferences and assumes command when the commander is absent; he draws up programs and plans for the commander and supervises their general execution; he is a combination aide, errand boy, and troubleshooter; to put the matter succinctly, he is the commander's "boy Friday."

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3. Q. What is the composition of the Military Council?
  - A. The Military Council consists of the Commander, the Deputy Commander for Political Affairs and either two or three additional officers designated as "Members of the Military Council". These additional members are not selected from the remaining officers listed Question 1, but are permanent members with this duty as their principal assignment. At Army level they usually hold the rank of Genmajor.
4. Q. Is the position of Military Kommissar, at Army level, identical with that of Deputy Commander for Political Affairs?
  - A. There is no position of Military Kommissar in the Armed Forces. The only person to be so designated is the Kommissar of a Military Kommissariat of an Oblast or Raion.
5. Q. At the army level is the staff advisory to the Chief of Staff or to the commander?
  - A. To the Chief of Staff.
6. Q. What is the function of the command liaison officer?
  - A. This is an ad hoc rather than a T/O position. When the need arises, the commander or the chief of staff assigns a staff officer or a chief of arms or services to carry out certain specified tasks in lower, subordinate headquarters. When serving in this capacity, the officer designated serves as a command liaison officer but the position is purely a temporary one, created as conditions demand.
7. Q. Who is Chief of the Main Directorate of the Commander of Artillery?
  - A. Marshal Voronov has been carried in this position for some time. He has been out of the public eye in recent months and it has been reported that Col. Gen NEDERLIN holds this assignment now.
8. Q. Does the Soviet Army follow the practice of designating units by the name of their commanding officer as a security measure?
  - A. Yes, this is standard operating procedure. On road marches, for example, the directional signs will bear the inscription "Unit IVANOV" instead of 22d Infantry Regt. The traffic control unit officers are provided with listings of the units and their commanders' names for the purpose of directing authorized personnel. Within the security area designated at Unit IVANOV, or whatever it may be, the numerical designation is used. The use of commanders' names is also followed in wartime as a security measure.
9. Q. Is there a definite "tour of duty" for officers stationed in occupied areas?
  - A. Yes. Officers in line units normally serve three years in occupied areas and are then transferred back to the USSR. This rotation policy is not followed as rigidly in service-type units.

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10. Q. Does this three year tour also apply to officers stationed in the Far East?
- A. Only Sakhalin, the Kurile Islands, and some islands in the Bering Sea are considered "hardship posts" with tours limited to three years. Posts on the mainland are not subject to this policy of fixed rotation.
11. Q. How many battalions are in each mechanized regiment of a mechanized division?
- A. There are five: three rifle, one mortar, and one tank battalion. In a 76-mm arty divizyon there would be six.
12. Q. Is this organization followed in both peacetime and wartime? If so, what changes occur under mobilization?
- A. The T/O and E are the same for both peace and war. All mechanized divisions are now supposed to be organized in accordance with this T/O and if there are instances of fewer battalions in a mechanized regiment it is because of manpower or other considerations. Each battalion will be expanded to a regiment and regiments to divisions under wartime mobilization.
13. Q. What is the difference, in organization, between a mechanized rifle regiment in a tank division and the mechanized regiments of mechanized divisions?
- A. There is no difference.
14. Q. A mechanized regiment contains one battalion of tanks. Does this not make the difference between mechanized and motorized regiments?
- A. The rifle regiment of the tank division also contains one battalion of tanks.
15. Q. Have you ever heard of any unit bearing the official designation "motorized"?
- A. The motorized battalions of "avtomachikov" (the tank riders) are the only units in the Army which have the official designation "motorized".
16. Q. What is the composition of the tank regiment of the mechanized division?
- A. Two battalions of T-34 tanks, one battalion on of JS-3 tanks and one battalion of armored cars.
17. Q. Why is there a distinction between the "tank" regiments of a tank division and the "heavy tank" and self-propelled regiments of a mechanized division if each has one battalion of JS-3 tanks?
- A. I do not know. That is simply the way they are referred to.
18. Q. Do you know of any T/O that combines T-34 tanks and self-propelled guns?
- A. Self-propelled guns are not an integral part of a tank regiment but may be attached to the tank regiment from the heavy tank and self-propelled regiment for certain operations.

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19. Q. Do the two battalions of self-propelled guns have weapons of the same caliber?
- A. They may or may not be of identical caliber. The guns within each battalion may even be of different caliber.
20. Q. How was the numbering of divisional subunits affected by the award of "Guards" honors during World War II?
- A. On 26 Sept 41, the decision was made to award "Guards" honors to certain divisions which had distinguished themselves in battle. Prior to that date, the divisions of the standing army were numbered serially according to their date of activation. Some had existed for a long time. The award of "Guards" honors resulted in numbering changes in units so designated.
21. Q. Did all divisional subunits receive the "Guards" designation? Have you, for example, heard of Guards medical battalions, Guards signal battalions, or Guards transportation companies, or battalions?
- A. Not all subunits received the Guards title. Only those subunits which actually took part in the particular engagement for which the citation was granted received the "Guards" designation. In theory a medical battalion could have received a "Guards" title, but I have never heard of one. Signal battalions could have received "Guards" titles, and also transportation units.
22. Q. What about "operational formations" such as corps and armies which received "Guards" honors? Would a certain proportion of component divisions so honored produce a change in the designation of the parent formation? How did unit shifts affect this?
- A. Armies and corps were named "Guards", but the honor did not necessarily carry through to all component units. Shifts and subsequent assignment of non-Guards components did not affect the "Guards" title of the formation.
23. Q. How many of the armies in Germany were Guards armies?
- A. There were about five armies in Germany. The first Mechanized Army, the staff of which was in Dresden, was definitely not a Guards army.
24. Q. What were some of the determining factors in awarding "Guards" honors and did the title carry any extra privileges or advantages?
- A. The award of "Guards" honors was not only a morale builder but also a monetary reward. Enlisted personnel of Guards units received double pay and officers received a 50 percent increase. Sometimes this honor was awarded to improve morale of mediocre units, not for distinguished service. When the extra privilege pay was rescinded after the war, the "Guards" title lost much of its significance. Nowadays, a recruit or officer assigned to a Guards unit is eligible for the award after three months of exemplary conduct. Officers are given a certificate; and entry is made in the records of enlisted personnel. Personnel transferring out of Guards units, whether or not they were members when the unit earned its citation, retain the personal distinction and are permitted to wear the Guards badge they earned. For disciplinary reasons, however, the personal Guards distinction may be withdrawn.

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25. Q. Does an officer in a "Guards" unit retain this distinction in the event he is transferred to a non-Guards unit?
- A. Yes, unless he is transferred because of misconduct or as the result of a court-martial which has decreed that he lose the Guards designation. An officer newly assigned to a Guards unit will, after he has proved his worthiness during a probationary period, be awarded the Guards classification. An officer is awarded a certificate attesting to his right to the Guards emblem and an enlisted man has the fact noted in his permanent records. During World War II, to belong to a Guards unit meant, in addition to the prestige, double pay for enlisted men and pay and a half for officers. This monetary consideration was abolished after World War II with the result that the Guards designation has lost much of its significance.

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